



FOOT-WARMERS IN CHURCH.

and Koern, who founded Batavia. Once the home of 25,000 prosperous people into whose laps the world poured its wealth, Hoorn has now only 10,000 sleepy dwellers; and at last it must become an agricultural village, with cabbage fields growing where once its fleets lay so proudly in the bay.

Enkhuizen is perhaps the deadest of the once powerful "Dead Cities" of the Zuyder Zee; for Stavoren has altogether disappeared, and can be no longer counted among them. Once the most important town in Holland, with 60,000 inhabitants, extended commerce, and a fleet of a thousand ships, Enkhuizen has shrunk away, until at the present time its population is only 5,000, who wander lazily through miles of silent streets.

Medemblik, too, ancient capital

of all this country before Hoorn and Enkhuizen existed, as a result of this new enterprise will cease dreaming of its old-time mastery of the main, and turn its attention to the market gardening of the new polder lands. Medemblik, which once sheltered kings and armies, and had its palaces and parliaments, is now a town of tottering walls and tumbling houses, a decrepit, toothless old man among cities. All these picturesque relics of former ages, with Edam, Vallengdam, Monnickendam, and many more, will now be more or less transformed by the new dry-making; they will become the centres of agricultural districts where intensive farming may pay the yearly rentals to the state and leave enough over for a well-diffused prosperity. The dead cities of the Zuyder Zee may be resurrected by the wizard hand of modern engineering science.

This great enterprise is only reconquering from the sea what it stole from the land. When the Romans overran Western Europe, the greater part of what is now the Zuyder Zee was covered with forests infested by bears and wolves. In the centre of this great forest, royal hunting grounds of long ago, was



A DUTCH-BUILT CRAFT.